EXHIBIT B

Summary and Analysis of Cases Cited by the U.S. Trustee in the Objection

No.	Cases Cited in the Objection	Summary and Analysis
1	United States v. Rodgers, 461 U.S.	Overview:
	677, 706 (1983).	Rodgers involved an appeal of a decision holding that government could seek a sale, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, 26 U.S.C.S. § 7403, of only the respondent delinquent taxpayers' interests in their property and not the entire property.
		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that courts have entirely unbound discretion to approve or decline to approve an application of a chapter 11 debtor in possession to employ a professional that meets the statutory requirements and quotes in a parenthetical that "'the word 'may,' when used in a statute, usually implies some degree of discretion[.]" (Objection ¶ 41).
		The Court should ignore the U.S. Trustee's spin on the Supreme Court's language. As the immediately following sentence in Rodgers indicates, "[t]his common-sense principle of statutory construction is by no means invariable, however, and can be defeated by indications of legislative intent to the contrary or by obvious inferences from the structure and purpose of the statute" While bankruptcy courts do have <i>some</i> discretion to consider factors beyond technical compliance with Bankruptcy Code § 327 that are germane to the purposes of Bankruptcy Code § 327, the discretion is not unlimited and should be guided by precedent. Precedent indicates that it is the interests of the estate and administration of the bankruptcy case that are relevant to that discretion.
2	In re Jackson, 484 B.R. 141, 154 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2012).	Overview: Jackson involved the request by a chapter 7 trustee to employ his law firm under Bankruptcy Code § 327(a) to represent him in his role as trustee of the bankruptcy estate and, in particular prosecuting potential patent infringement actions. The court denied the application without prejudice because (a) the description of the need for retention of the particular attorney on this matter was insufficient, (b) the disclosure of connections did not describe any search of potential defendants in the patent matters, and (c) the application was not adequate for the Court to determine that the attorney selected was in the best interests of the estate as required for a trustee to retain his own firm.
		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that "[m]any decisions hold that bankruptcy courts have broad discretion in deciding whether to approve an application to employ an estate professional under section 327(a)." (Objection ¶ 42). However, <i>Jackson</i> held that the application at issue did not meet the requirements

		under Bankruptcy Code § 327 or Bankruptcy Rule 2014. The Trustee does <i>not</i> assert that the Debtor's Application to employ S&L fails to meet this requirement.
3	In re Bigler, LP, 422 B.R. 638, 643 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2010).	Overview: Bigler involved an application to employ an investment banking firm that included a "tail period" provision under which the firm would receive compensation if the debtors consummated a transaction within 12 months after termination of the agreement. The court approved the application to employ the investment banker despite the because of the testimony of the debtors' CRO that the terms were negotiated and because compensation was subject to approval under section 330. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that "[m]any decisions hold that bankruptcy courts have
		broad discretion in deciding whether to approve an application to employ an estate professional under section 327(a)." (Objection ¶ 42). While this decision does support such discretion, the court specifically states that "[i]n exercising this discretion, this Court focuses on whether the proposed terms are reasonable."
4	Miller v. United States Trustee, 197 F.3d 13, 17 (1st Cir. 1999).	Overview: Miller was an appeal of a bankruptcy court's order disqualifying debtor's counsel and disgorging retainers and fees after the debtor's counsel violated the retention order by drawing against the retainer and receiving postpetition payments in violation of the court's order. The attorney argued on appeal that drawing against the retainer was proper and that the bankruptcy court abused its discretion by ordering disgorgement of all fees. The First Circuit Court Appeals affirmed the bankruptcy court's ruling.
		Analysis: The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that "[m]any decisions hold that bankruptcy courts have broad discretion in deciding whether to approve an application to employ an estate professional under section 327(a)." (Objection ¶ 42). The First Circuit Court of Appeals did reason that "[b]ankruptcy courts historically been accorded wide discretion to oversee the terms and conditions of a debtor's engagement" However, the reasoning of the Court of Appeals was also based on the bankruptcy court's "continuing authority to revisit an order employing a particular attorney to represent a debtor." The facts are also entirely inapposite.
5	Interwest Bus. Equip. v. United States Trustee, 23 F.3d 311, 315 (10th Cir. 1994).	Overview: Interwest involved an appeal of a bankruptcy court's denial of an application to employ debtor's counsel. The bankruptcy court denied the application to employ the attorney because of a conflict of interest arising from the attorney's representation multiple debtors who held claims against one another. The bankruptcy court had determined that there was an actual conflict of interest that required representation by separate counsel. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the bankruptcy court. Analysis:

		The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that "[m]any decisions hold that bankruptcy courts have broad discretion in deciding whether to approve an application to employ an estate professional under section 327(a)." (Objection ¶ 42). The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals did conclude that it would not "second guess" a decision not to approve professionals under section 327 "unless it exhibits a clear abuse of discretion, circumstances not present in the case at hand." However, the discretion that the bankruptcy court in <i>Interwest</i> exercised was regarding whether the representation of multiple debtors created an <i>actual</i> conflict. Further, the Tenth Circuit also reasoned that the discretion was "to ensure professionals are disinterested and do not represent interests adverse to the estate" rather than the unprincipled discretion the U.S. Trustee seeks in the Objection.
6	Harold & Williams Dev. Co., 977 F.2d 906, 909 (4th Cir. 1992).	Overview: Harold involved an appeal of a bankruptcy court's decision to deny the application of a single person to serve as both lawyer and accountant for the estate. The bankruptcy court ruled that there was a per se rule against the employment of a single person in both rules. The district court rejected the imposition of the per se rule but held that the bankruptcy court did not abuse its discretion. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the lower decisions, holding that there was no per se rule and that the bankruptcy court abused its discretion. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that "[m]any decisions hold that bankruptcy courts have broad discretion in deciding whether to approve an application to employ an estate professional under section 327(a)." (Objection ¶ 42). The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals did conclude that bankruptcy courts had discretion but further stated that: Thus, once the trustee meets the burden of demonstrating that an applicant for professional employment is qualified under § 327, see Bankr. Rule 2014(a), the discretion of the bankruptcy court must be exercised in a way that it believes best serves the objectives of the bankruptcy system. Among the ultimate considerations for the bankruptcy courts in making these decisions must be the protection of the interests of the bankruptcy estate and its creditors, and the efficient, expeditious, and economical resolution of the bankruptcy proceeding. Cf. In re BH & P, 949 F.2d at 1316. Harold stands for the proposition that what matters is the interests of the bankruptcy estate and its creditors. The U.S. Trustee does not dispute that employment of S&L is in best interest of the debtor and its estate. That is directly contrary to the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection.

7	In re Martin, 817 F.2d 175, 182 (1st Cir. 1987).	Overview:
		Martin involved a novel factual situation. To pay for their legal services pre-petition, the debtors delivered a note secured by a second lien on the debtors real property. The note was outstanding when the debtors filed for chapter 11 relief. The case was converted to chapter 7 and there was an objection to the attorney's fees because it was not a disinterested party by way of the secured note. The bankruptcy court allowed the attorney's compensation (subject to non-allowable compensation) but invalidated the note and lien. The First Circuit Court of Appeals determined that there was no per se rule that applied and remanded the matter to the bankruptcy court to determine whether the attorney's security interest was allowable under the particular facts.
		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that "[m]any decisions hold that bankruptcy courts have broad discretion in deciding whether to approve an application to employ an estate professional under section 327(a)." See Objection ¶ 42. The First Circuit Court of Appeals stated—as partially quoted by the U.S. Trustee—that "[h]istorically, bankruptcy courts have been accorded wide discretion in connection with factintensive matters, and in regard to the terms and conditions of the engagement of professionals." The Court of Appeals also noted that "horrible imaginings alone cannot be allowed to carry the day."
		Martin does not support the U.S. Trustee's overall position in the Objection. The discretion at issue in Martin was with respect to the factual determination of whether the attorney was a disinterested person. The U.S. Trustee does not dispute that S&L is disinterested.
8	Elias v. Lisowski Law Firm (In re	Overview:
	Elias), 215 B.R. 600, 603 (B.A.P. 9th 1997).	Elias involved a post-bankruptcy fee dispute in which an attorney employed in a bankruptcy case sought to enforce its rights in state court after dismissal of the debtor's bankruptcy case. The Ninth Circuit BAP summarized the facts as follows:
		After the debtor's chapter 11 case was dismissed, her bankruptcy attorney filed a state-court lawsuit against her for \$ 10,000.00 of unpaid chapter 11 attorney's fees. The debtor filed a motion for summary judgment in the state-court action, arguing that her former attorney was not entitled to any fees because he had secured his employment in the bankruptcy case fraudulently by failing to disclose his prior connection with the debtor, the fee he received for the bankruptcy retainer, or his receipt of a potential \$ 3,000.00 preference from the debtor on the eve of filing.
		Prior to ruling on the motion for summary judgment, the state court requested that the bankruptcy court rule upon the viability of the attorney's lien, the status of the attorney's employment in the bankruptcy case, and whether a preference claim against the attorney could affect his ability to collect a fee.

		Pursuant to the state court's request, the debtor filed a motion in the bankruptcy court seeking to vacate the order authorizing counsel's employment, cancel the attorney's lien, and determine that counsel was not entitled to any fees. Exercising its discretion, the bankruptcy court denied the debtor's motion. The bankruptcy court also found that it had no jurisdiction to enter further orders concerning the disputed fees. The debtor appealed.
		The Ninth Circuit BAP affirmed the decision of the bankruptcy court.
		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee cites this case for the proposition that "[m]any decisions hold that bankruptcy courts have broad discretion in deciding whether to approve an application to employ an estate professional under section 327(a)." See Objection ¶ 42. While the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals stated in dicta that the appellate standard of review for a bankruptcy court decision with respect to an application to employ, its holding was that the bankruptcy court lacked jurisdiction:
		We are not satisfied either that the bankruptcy court had jurisdiction to grant the relief requested by the Debtor, or that there has been a showing that the bankruptcy court abused its discretion in refusing to reopen the dismissed case in order to review pending state-court issues concerning disputed attorneys' fees. We therefore AFFIRM the decision of the bankruptcy court.
		Elias does not support the U.S. Trustee's overall position in the Objection.
9	In re LTHM Houston-Operations,	Overview:
	LLC, 2014 WL 5449737, at *5 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2014). 2014 Bankr. LEXIS 4495, at *1	The issue presented in <i>LTHM</i> was wither Bankruptcy Code § 327(a) & (d) necessarily precluded the employment of a consulting firm with which the chapter 7 trustee had a significant professional relationship. The chapter 7 trustee sought to hire his firm as his financial advisor and accountant. The court ultimately re-set the hearing on the application to focus on the benefits and risks created by the firm's employment.
	(Bankr. S.D. Tex. Oct. 24, 2014).	Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>LTHM</i> :
		 "Even if the technical requirements of disinterestedness and not holding or representing an interest adverse to the estate are met, the Court has the discretion to deny the application." (Objection ¶ 43). In the exercise of its discretion under Section 327, the Court is instructed "into taking account the facts of a particular bankruptcy case and the overall objectives of the bankruptcy system." (Objection ¶ 44).
		However, the U.S. Trustee leaves out the following paragraph of the opinion that indicates the considerations that guide the exercise of that discretion:

		The Court is instructed to exercise its discretion by taking into account "the facts of a particular bankruptcy case and the overall objectives of the bankruptcy system." <i>Id.</i> at 10. Section 327(a) acknowledges that the purpose of the professional's employment is "to represent or assist the trustee in carrying out the trustee's duties under this title." 327(a). Accordingly, the Court must consider whether the benefits of employing Claro exceed the potential impact it may have on the trustee's ability to fulfill his duties to the estate. (emphasis added). LTHM does not support the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection. As that case indicates, the discretion of the court to consider issues beyond technical compliance with Bankruptcy Code § 327 are about the benefit to the estate. The U.S. Trustee does not dispute that employment of S&L is in the best interests of the Debtor's estate or administration of its chapter 11 case.
10	<i>In re Kurtzman</i> , 220 B.R. 538, 542	Overview:
	(S.D.N.Y. 1998).	<i>Kurtzman</i> involved appeals related to a chapter 7 trustee's applications to (a) employ his law firm in several cases because the court determined that employment of the trustee's firm was not in the best interest of the estates based on the court's prior dealings with the firm and (b) an unrelated firm because the rates it charged were too high. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York affirmed the decisions.
		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Kurtzman</i> :
		 Additionally, "while disinterestedness and the absence of conflicts may be central to the inquiry, they are by no means exclusive. Indeed, section 327(a) vests the authority for 'approval' within the sound discretion of the court. That authority would be eviscerated were the Court required to approve counsel who met the technical test for disinterest but was ill-suited for other reasons" (Objection ¶ 43). finding that the bankruptcy court did not abuse its discretion when it denied the retention of counsel based on "prior problems involving time records, billing errors, professional conduct, and overall costs of legal services that had led to its conclusion of loss of confidence in the firm") (Objection ¶ 44).
		However, the U.S. Trustee conspicuously leaves out the example of the "other reasons" that <i>Kurtzman</i> identifies are proper to guide the bankruptcy court's discretion and breezes over the facts at issue in that case. The full sentence that the U.S. Trustee partially quotes in paragraph 43 of the Objection is: "That authority would be eviscerated were the Court required to approve counsel who met the technical test for disinterest but was ill-suited for other reasons <i>such as, for example, inexperience</i> ." (emphasis added). Further, <i>Kurtzman</i> , like

		every other case, makes clear that the other factors that courts should consider in exercising of discretion relate to what was in the best interests of the bankruptcy estate:
		By its very nature, the "best interest of the estate" under § 327(d) is a concept that affords the court considerable discretion in making evaluations and comparisons regarding the performance of counsel. In light of this discretion, the Court below was entitled to rely on its own first-hand observations and, based on those observations, to draw its own conclusions regarding professional performance. Here, the presiding judge was in a unique position to observe the conduct of counsel over a significant period of time, and to compare counsel's performance with that of other attorneys performing similar work. The Court articulated and specified its concerns, which admittedly were of a conclusory nature, and afforded Appellant an opportunity to respond. Since the "right" that Appellant seeks to vindicate rests in the final analysis with the discretion of the Court, we cannot conclude that the hearing afforded Appellant failed to meet constitutional standards.
		<i>Kurtzman</i> does not support the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection. There is no dispute that it is in the best interests of the Debtor's bankruptcy estate to retain S&L and that doing so will further administration of the Debtor's chapter 11 case.
11	Official Comm. of Unsecured Creditors v. Harris (In re Southwest Food Distribs., LLC), 561 F.3d 1106, 1112-13 (10th Cir. 2009).	Overview: Harris involved the denial of an official committee's application to employ counsel. The bankruptcy court denied the retention of counsel because the rates that were significantly higher than the prevailing local rates and there was no evidence that the case required national counsel. The committee appealed. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the Bankruptcy Court's decision.
		Analysis: The U.S. Trustee cites <i>Harris</i> with a parenthetical that the case stands for the proposition that consideration of compensation terms was not reversible error. That is an accurate representation of the holding in <i>Harris</i> but it is inapposite to the Debtor's chapter 11 case here. The U.S. Trustee does not dispute that S&L's fees are reasonable.

	T	
	In re Downs, 103 F.3d. 472, 480 (6th Cir. 1996).	Overview: Among other issues, <i>Downs</i> involved an appeal of a bankruptcy court's order imposing sanctions on an attorney for failing to disclose his fee arrangement with the debtor, which was paid by a creditor, as required by Bankruptcy Code § 329 and Bankruptcy Rule 2016. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the sanctions. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Downs</i> : "Thus, the fulfillment of the duties imposed under these provisions are crucial to the administration and disposition of proceedings before the bankruptcy courts." (Objection ¶¶ 44 & 47). But <i>Downs</i> does not deal with Bankruptcy Code § 327 or Bankruptcy Rule 2014. The case is inapplicable to the issue in the Application.
12	In re Doors & More Inc., 126 B.R. 43, 45 (Bankr. E.D. Mich. 1991).	Overview: In <i>Doors & More</i> , the bankruptcy court denied an application to employ counsel. The application to employ the attorney contained numerous problems, including it was not signed by the Debtor, did not state the reasons for the attorney's section, and did not indicate whether the attorney had any present connections with any of the creditors. Based on those and other issues, the bankruptcy court determined that (a) the attorney could not provide competent representation to the estate, (b) it would not be in the best interest of the estate for the court to approve the attorney's appointment, and (c) the attorney's appointment would not aid in administration of the case. Analysis:
		 "Plainly, the Court will not approve the employment of counsel that does not comport with the applicable ethical and disciplinary regulations." (Objection ¶ 44). "In a Chapter 11 case, it is fundamental that a debtor in possession or a trustee is obligated to act not in his or her own best interest, but rather in the best interest of the entire estate, including the creditors and owners of the debtor estate." (Objection ¶ 44, n.5). The ethical issues presented in <i>Doors & More</i> was where the attorney could provide competent representation. According to the bankruptcy court: Both the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct and the best interest of a bankruptcy estate require that the attorney selected to represent the estate must be able to provide competent representation. In a Chapter 11 case, an attorney can provide competent representation to the estate only if the attorney is thoroughly familiar with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Local Rules. Bankruptcy, and especially Chapter 11 bankruptcy, is a highly specialized area of law. An attorney for a debtor in possession must have expert knowledge of bankruptcy law in order to achieve a successful result. Experience indicates that a business that files a Chapter 11 case, by definition, is already in

		trouble. Although competent counsel can by no means insure a successful reorganization, incompetent counsel will almost certainly insure failure. Only an attorney with expert knowledge of bankruptcy law can properly aid in the administration of the case. The U.S. Trustee does not dispute that S&L is familiar with bankruptcy and competent to represent the Debtor in its chapter 11 case.
13	In re Smith, 507 F.3d 64, 71 (2d Cir. 2007).	Overview: In Smith, the chapter 7 trustee obtained an order to remove the debtor's preferred choice of special personal injury counsel and denied the debtor's motion to dismiss the chapter 7 case. The district court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the bankruptcy court's ruling. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from Smith: "[T]he bankruptcy court should interfere with the trustee's choice of counsel only in the rarest cases, such as when the proposed attorney has a conflict of interest, or when it is clear that the best interest of the estate would not be served by the trustee's choice." (Objection ¶ 44, n.5). Smith is directly contrary to the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection. Indeed, Smith is also instructive on the considerations beyond simply compliance with Bankruptcy § Code 327 that are appropriate to guide the Court's discretion: Thus, section 327(a) does not give a bankruptcy court authority to reject a trustee's choice of counsel solely because of an objection by the debtor. Rather, the debtor's objection is relevant only to a bankruptcy court's consideration of the best interest of the estate, or of whether the chosen special counsel is conflicted. Applying these principles here, we find no error in the Bankruptcy Court's determination that there were "no circumstances" that would give it reason to interfere with Geltzer's decision to remove Schwartz as special personal injury counsel. There was no indication or allegation that the attorney with whom Geltzer chose to replace Schwartz was conflicted or unqualified to litigate the personal injury action, and ample evidence supported the Bankruptcy Court's conclusion that the best interest of the estate would not be served by requiring Geltzer to continue to be represented by Schwartz, including, inter alia, Schwartz's delay in amending the state court caption and his transferring the personal injury file to Ginsberg without court or trustee approval. Indeed, the only factor weighing in favor of reject

		As <i>Smith</i> indicates, the relevant factors guiding courts' discretion are (a) the best interest of the estate, (b) the qualifications of the proposed attorney, and (c) and whether the chosen counsel has a conflict. The U.S. Trustee does object to S&L's employment on any of those grounds.
14	In re Leslie Fay Companies, Inc., 175 B.R. 525, 536 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1994).	Discrete: Leslie Fay involved the failure of the chapter 11 debtor's counsel to disclose connections with potential targets of litigation by the debtor and the debtor's seventh largest creditor. The bankruptcy court appointed an examiner and the examiner determined that the attorney was not disinterested in the matter. The United States trustee for the district sought to disqualify the attorney on the grounds of failure to disclose the connections under Bankruptcy Rule 2014 and because the attorney was not disinterested. The bankruptcy court found that the attorney represented interests that were materially adverse at the time of its retention and failed to properly disclose its connections under Bankruptcy Rule 2014. The bankruptcy court determined that the best interests of the estate warranted (a) allowing the attorney to complete the services it had begun and see the case through reorganization and finish the pending contested matters and adversary proceedings, while requiring replacement counsel to handle new matters and (b) imposing an economic sanction in the amount of the costs of the examiner's investigation and the failure to disclose.
		Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Leslie Fay</i> : "[T]he requirements of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2014 are more encompassing than those governing disinterestedness inquiry under section 327. For while retention under section 327 is only limited by interests that are 'materially adverse,' under Rule 2014, 'all connections' that are not so remote as to be de minimis must be disclosed." (Objection ¶ 46). As set out in the Reply, however, this disclosure is required of professionals who are employed by the bankruptcy estate or seeking to be employed by the bankruptcy estate. The attorney at issue in <i>Leslie Fay</i> was employed by the debtor pursuant to Bankruptcy Code § 327(a). The facts are not the same as those present here and the case does not support the U.S. Trustee's position.
15	In re Woodcraft Studios, Inc., 464 B.R. 1, 8 (N.D. Cal. 2011).	Overview: In <i>Woodcraft Studios</i> , the bankruptcy court denied a fee application filed by the attorney to a chapter 11 debtor after the case was converted to chapter 7 and ordered the disgorgement of the prepetition retainer. The attorney affirmatively stated in the application to employ and Bankruptcy Rule 2014 disclosure that the attorney did not represent the debtor prior to the petition date or have any connections to parties in interest in the case. After conversion, the bankruptcy court determined that the attorney represented and received fees from the debtor prior to the petition date. On appeal, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California affirmed the bankruptcy court's ruling

		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Woodcraft Studios</i> : The applicant has the duty to disclose all relevant information to the court and "may not exercise any discretion to withhold information." (Objection ¶ 46). However, the opinion goes on the state the following:
		"The purpose of such disclosure is to permit the Court and parties in interest to determine whether the connection disqualifies the applicant from the employment sought, or whether further inquiry should be made before deciding whether to approve the employment. This decision should not be left to counsel, whose judgment may be clouded by the benefits of the potential employment." <i>In re Lee</i> , 94 B.R. 172, 176 (Bankr. C.D. Cal.1988).
		Woodcraft Studios does not stand for the proposition that Bankruptcy Rule 2014 imposes a duty to supplement disclosures of connections after the professional is no longer seeking to be retained in the bankruptcy case. It does not support the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection that Mr. Lee's disclosures were deficient.
16	U.S. v. Gallene, 182 F.3d 578, 588 (7th Cir. 1999).	Overview: Gallene involved a criminal case in which the district court entered convictions and sentences against a bankruptcy attorney for knowingly and fraudulently making a false material declaration in a bankruptcy case. A jury returned verdicts finding that attorney for a chapter 11 debtor failed to disclose connections of his firm to a debtor's senior secured creditor and related parties. The issue was raised among the attorney's firm two months before the debtor filed bankruptcy and the bankruptcy court held hearings about other connections that were disclosed in the attorney's 2014 declaration. When the court ordered the attorney to file a supplemental declaration, the connection with the senior secured creditor were still not disclosed. Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Gallene</i> : "Thus, 'professionals "cannot pick or choose which connections are irrelevant or trivial."" (Objection ¶ 46). However, other portions of the same paragraph from which the U.S. Trustee draws its quotation indicates that the obligation to disclose connections is limited: The Bankruptcy Code requires that attorneys <i>who seek to be employed as counsel for a debtor</i> apply for the bankruptcy court's approval of that employment. See In re Crivello, 134 F.3d 831, 835-36 (7th Cir. 1998). <i>Bankruptcy Rule 2014 requires the potential attorney for the debtor</i> to set forth under oath any "connections with the debtor, creditors, [and] any other party in interest." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2014(a).
		Gallene does not support the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection.

17	In re The Harris Agency, 462 B.R. 514, 524 (E.D. Pa. 2011).	Overview: In Harris Agency the attorney for a chapter 11 debtor failed to disclose that a creditor had agreed to pay the attorney's fees for representing the debtor and that the debtor had agreed to repay the amounts advanced by that creditor. The bankruptcy court entered an order disqualifying the attorney from further representation of the debtor in the chapter 11 case but did not disqualify the attorney from the beginning of the case. In connection with a subsequent fee application, the court found that the attorney had also previously entered an appearance for a non-debtor affiliate of the debtor prior to disqualification. The bankruptcy court entered a second order disqualifying the attorney as of the date of the conflicting representation, partially disallowing fees and expenses, and mandating disgorgement of fees received in excess of the amount allowed. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania affirmed the bankruptcy court's rulings. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from Harris Agency: "The duty to disclose under Bankruptcy Rule 2014 is ongoing, continues throughout the case, and 'requires 'spontaneous, timely, and complete disclosure." (Objection ¶ 46). A more complete quote is as follows: Attorneys who seek approval by the court to represent a debtor, pursuant to § 327(a), must file an
		application for employment that complies with the disclosure requirements of Rule 2014. Rule 2014(a) requires that "[t]he application shall state to the best of the applicant's knowledge, all of the person's connections with the debtor, creditors, any other party in interest," and "shall be accompanied by a verified statement setting forth the person's connections with the debtor, creditors, [and] any other party in interest" The duty to disclose under Rule 2014 continues throughout an attorney's representation of the debtor, and requires "spontaneous, timely, and complete disclosure" Rome v. Braunstein, 19 F.3d 54, 59 (1st Cir. 1994). Again, the U.S. Trustee cherry-picks quotes to arrive at a misleading result. Harris Agency does not support the U.S. Trustee's position.
18	In re Granite Partners, L.P., 219 B.R. 22, 35 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1998).	Overview: In <i>Granite Partners</i> , the attorney retained by a chapter 11 trustee retained the attorney to represent the estate represented a larger creditor that was an investigation target in five open matters that were not disclosed in the attorney's Bankruptcy Rule 2014 disclosures. During the course of the attorney's representation of the chapter 11 trustee, the attorney opened approximately 400 additional matters for the creditor resulting in \$9 million in fees that it did not disclose. The matter was not disclosed until the attorney filed its final fee application and the bankruptcy court appointed a fee examiner who determined that the attorney represented interests adverse to the estate. The bankruptcy court denied all of the attorney's fees related to investigative services and reduced the fee award by 15% for non-investigative disclosures.

		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee cites <i>Granite Partners</i> for the proposition that "[t]he duty to disclose under Bankruptcy Rule 2014 is ongoing, continues throughout the case, and requires spontaneous, timely, and complete disclosure" and the parenthetical that "court[s] should not have to 'rummage through files or conduct independent fact-finding investigations' to determine whether the professional should be disqualified." (Objection ¶ 46). However, the <i>Granite Partners</i> makes clear that the purpose of Bankruptcy Rule 2014 disclosures is "to determine qualification under section 327." The attorney in <i>Granite Partners</i> was employed as an estate professional and further was sanctioned only to the extent necessary to prevent compensation for matters on which the attorney could not be retained under section 327. Nothing in <i>Granite Partners</i> supports sanctioning a different law firm in a different case for the actions of an attorney that was not, at the time of the asserted non-disclosure, seeking to be retained by the bankruptcy estate. The case does not support the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection.
19	In re Griffin, 313 B.R. 757, 763 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2004).	Overview: In <i>Griffin</i> , the attorney to a chapter 7 debtor sought payment from the estate for post-petition services provided to the debtor. The attorney was never retained by the chapter 7 trustee. Additionally, the debtors took a post-petition loan to pay the attorney's fees for work related to redeeming the debtor's vehicle (pursuant to a prepetition retainer agreement). The bankruptcy court held that the fees were not allowable, were not properly disclosed pursuant to Bankruptcy Code § 329 or Bankruptcy Rule 2016, and had to be disgorged if already paid.
		Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Griffin</i> : "The disclosure requirements in Rule 2014 are 'rooted in the fiduciary relationship between courts and attorneys." (Objection ¶ 47). The U.S. Trustee appears to misrepresent the following language from <i>Griffin</i> in the Objection: Section 329 of the Code and Rule 2016(b) are rooted in the fiduciary relationship between courts and attorneys. In any event, as important as Bankruptcy Rule 2014 may be, that is not a reason to use the important
20	In re Am. Int'l Refinery, Inc., 676 F.3d 455, 465 (5th Cir. 2012).	requirement as a club against this Debtor as requested by the U.S. Trustee. Overview:
	1.5d 155, 705 (5th Ch. 2012).	In American International Refinery, the liquidating trustee in a chapter 11 case brought an adversary proceeding against the chapter 11 debtors' former attorneys seeking disgorgement of fees during the bankruptcy. The bankruptcy court ordered a sanction of \$135,000 for the attorney's failure to adequately

		disclose various connections it had to the debtors and creditors, but found that the attorney did not have a disqualifying adverse interest and did not disgorge the remaining \$607,000 that the attorney received in the case. The liquidating trustee appealed. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the bankruptcy court. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from *American International Refinery*: "Applicants 'who fail to disclose timely and completely their connections proceed at their own risk because failure to disclose is sufficient grounds to revoke an employment order and deny compensation." (Objection ¶ 47). Again, considering the broader language from which the U.S. Trustee derived its quotation is necessary to understand what the case actually said: Courts may deny all compensation to professionals who fail to make adequate disclosure, and "counsel who fail to disclose is sufficient grounds to revoke an employment order and deny compensation." *West Delta Oil, 432 F.3d at 355 (quotation marks omitted); *see also Rome v. Braunstein, 19 F.3d 54, 59-60 (1st Cir. 1994) ("Absent the spontaneous, timely and complete disclosure required by section 327(a) and [Rule] 2014(a), court-appointed counsel proceed at their own risk."). In determining an appropriate sanction, an important consideration is whether the failure was intentional. *Crivello, 134 F.3d at 839 (stating that "a bankruptcy court should punish a willful failure to disclose the connections as severely as an attempt to put forth a fraud on the court."). **American International Refinery* supports the proposition that *if* Mr. Lee had failed to disclose his connections with FSS in the IW Cases, been employed by the IW Debtors' bankruptcy, and sought compensation, the Court would have discretion to deny such requested fees. Because of the U.S. Trustee's insistence on dismissing the IW Cases, that never happened. The Fifth Circuit's decision does not support for the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection.
21	In re Midway Indus. Contractors, Inc., 272 B.R. 651, 664 (Bankr. N.D. III. 2001).	Overview: In <i>Midway</i> , in connection with a final fee application after conversion of a case from chapter 11 to chapter 7, counsel for a chapter 11 debtor sought compensation that included amounts due under an undisclosed contingency fee arrangement, and attorney lien claim. The U.S. trustee and certain creditors objected to the fee application because of the failure to disclose the connections under Bankruptcy Rule 2014 and the waiver implied thereby. The bankruptcy court allowed only approximately 55% of the attorney's fees, considering, among other things, the period of time it took the attorney to make the disclosure and the certain prejudice to the estate caused by such non-disclosure. The bankruptcy court disallowed the attorney lien claim.

		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Midway</i> : "[L]ack of disclosure in and of itself is sufficient to warrant disqualification, even if in the end there was no prejudice." (Objection ¶ 47). The context of the quote is as follows:
		Trittipo argues that the lack of disclosure has not caused any prejudice to the estate in general. This argument ignores the objective of requiring disclosure. The objective of requiring disclosure is not so much to protect against prejudice to the estate, but to ensure undivided loyalty and untainted advice from professionals. <i>Crivello</i> , 134 F.3d at 836. That is why lack of disclosure in and of itself is sufficient to warrant disqualification, even if in the end there was no prejudice. <i>Filene's Basement</i> , 239 B.R. at 849. Trittipo's lack of prejudice argument is relevant, however, in assessing the amount of disallowance, which is discussed below. <i>See Diamond Mortgage</i> , 135 B.R. at 96.
		Midway does not support the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection. There is no dispute that S&L has disclosed relevant connections in the Debtor's chapter 11 case. The decision does not indicate that a professional who is no longer seeking to be retained as an estate professional has an obligation to supplement disclosures. Nor does the decision indicate that a failure of an attorney in a previous case, for a different client, at a different law firm, should be disqualifying.
22	In re Rabex Amuru of N.C., Inc., 198 B.R. 892, 897 (Bankr. M.D.N.C. 1996).	Overview: Rabex involved an application by a chapter 11 debtor to employ an attorney. There was a dispute about the ownership of the equity interests in the debtor between to potential parent companies and the debtor was a named defendant in related state court litigation. One of these parent companies paid the retainer for the debtor's proposed attorney, was continuing to make the attorney's payment during the chapter 11 case, and authorized the bankruptcy filing. The bankruptcy court determined that these facts created the appearance of a conflict of interest sufficient that the attorney was not a disinterested person despite the lack of any wrongdoing by the attorney.
		Analysis: The U.S. Trustee cites <i>Rabex</i> for the proposition that "[l]ack of disclosure in and of itself is sufficient to warrant disqualification, even if in the end there was no prejudice" and indicates in the parenthetical that "attorneys for debtor removed because of the appearance of impropriety, even though no harm done to the debtor[.]" (Objection ¶ 47). That is not an accurate representation of what the case stands for—there was no issue with disclosure in Rabex and the bankruptcy court held that being paid by one of the disputed owners of the debtor amounted to attorney no longer being a disinterested person.
		In any event, the facts of <i>Rabex</i> are not relevant to the Trustee's position in the Objection.

	In re Byington, 454 B.R. 648, 657 (Bankr. W.D. Va. 2011).	Overview: The relevant issue in <i>Byington</i> was whether there was an obligation to disclose a pre-filing transfer by the debtors' son for the filing fee for the chapter 11 case. The bankruptcy court held that the pre-filing transfer from the debtors' son should have been disclosed. Because of the novelty of the issue, however, the bankruptcy court held that the failure to disclose the payment was not sufficient to deny the application to employ the attorney but that the attorney would not be entitled to compensation for correcting the deficiency or in asserting that the disclosure was not required.
		Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Byington</i> : "Professionals must 'be meticulous in disclosing 'all connections' with the debtor and other parties in interest, the failure to do so justifying a court's taking significant punitive or corrective action." (Objection ¶ 47)
		Again, looking at the context of the language quoted by the U.S. Trustee makes clear that this obligation only applies to professionals who are actively seeking to be employed by the estate:
		Published bankruptcy court decisions are quite consistent in requiring that debtors-in-possession and their attorneys, <i>whose employment is sought to be approved</i> , be meticulous in disclosing "all connections" with the debtor and other parties in interest, the failure to do so justifying a court's taking significant punitive or corrective action.
		Byington does not support the U.S. Trustee's position that Mr. Lee was required to supplement his disclosure for KSLPLLC after the IW Debtors had decided to dismiss their cases, as demanded by the U.S. Trustee, and no longer intended to pursue Mr. Lee's employment as an estate professional. It certainly does not support the U.S. Trustee's position that this should be imputed on this Debtor seeking to employ S&L in this chapter 11 case.
		Moreover, <i>Byington</i> suggests what would be an appropriate action for the Court to take here if it determines that Mr. Lee's disclosure of connections in the IW Cases was deficient: Like the bankruptcy court in <i>Byington</i> did, the Court should simply not allow Mr. Lee compensation for asserting the disclosure was not required. Denial of the Debtor's application to employ S&L and harm to the Debtor's estate and administration if its chapter 11 case is not called for here.
24	In re EBW Laser Inc., 333 B.R. 351, 359 (Bankr. M.D.N.C. 2005).	Overview: In EBW Laser, an attorney was retained as special counsel to a chapter 11 debtor on a contingency fee basis to pursue litigation against a third-party. The chapter 11 case was converted to a case under chapter 7 and the chapter 7 trustee, acting as his own counsel, negotiated a settlement with the defendant in which the bankruptcy estate received a cash payment. The attorney submitted an application for compensation based on the

		contingency fee agreement under which he was retained in the chapter 11 case. The bankruptcy court rejected the attorney's argument for contingency fees but held that the attorney was entitled to reasonable compensation for the post-petition, pre-conversion services provided as a chapter 11 administrative expense claim. Among the issues raised by the chapter 7 trustee in his objection to the attorney's fee application was that the attorney inadequately disclosed the terms of the prepetition engagement of the attorney by the debtor. The attorney claimed that there was a side agreement that was essential to the chapter 7 trustee's ultimate settlement but that side agreement was not disclosed. Although the bankruptcy court held that the attorney's affidavit provided largely met the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 2014, the court reduced the compensation awarded to the attorney by \$3,000 (10%) because of the failure to disclose the side agreement. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>EBW Laser</i> : "The Bankruptcy Court may, in its discretion, disqualify counsel, or deny compensation, as a sanction for failure to make the disclosure required." (Objection ¶ 47). While the quoted language was contained in the opinion, that is not what the bankruptcy court did. EBW Laser also demonstrates that what the U.S. Trustee is seeking through the Objection is in fact a sanction. The Application in this case by this Debtor is not the appropriate place for the U.S. Trustee to seek or the Court to impose that sanction.
25	In re eToys, Inc., 331 B.R. 176, 189 (Bankr. D. Del. 2005).	Overview: In eToys, a shareholder and administrative claimant of a chapter 11 debtor, and the U.S. trustee filed motions seeking various relief against attorneys and consultants for the debtor and committee, including disgorgement of fees. Certain of the motions were settled or addressed for procedural reasons while others were decided on the merits. Among other things, the bankruptcy court found that the debtor's attorney had a disqualifying conflict and failed to adequately disclose that connection. The bankruptcy court ordered the attorney's fees paid in the case for matters related to that conflict to be disgorged. Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from eToys in the Objection: It "goes to the heart of the integrity of the bankruptcy system." In re eToys, Inc., 331 B.R. 176, 189 (Bankr. D. Del. 2005). "[T]he duty to disclose under Bankruptcy Rule 2014 is considered sacrosanct because the complete and candid disclosure by an attorney seeking employment is indispensable to the court's discharge of its duty to assure the attorney's eligibility for employment under section 327(a) and to make an informed decision on whether the engagement is in the best interest of the estate." Id.

		(Objection ¶ 48) (emphasis added). The very language quoted by the U.S. Trustee in the Objection indicates that the reasoning does not apply to Mr. Lee under the facts present here. <i>eToys</i> does not support the U.S. Trustee's position in the Objection.
26	In re Matco Elec. Group, Inc., 383 B.R. 848, 853-54 (Bankr. N.D.N.Y. 2008).	Overview: In <i>Matco</i> , the U.S. trustee field a motion seeking to disallow and disgorge fees paid to former counsel to the an official committee in a chapter 11 case. In its Bankruptcy 2014 declaration accompanying the application to employ the attorney, it disclosed that one of the members of its firm was related to an officer and shareholder of one of the debtor's significant creditors. The U.S. trustee asserted that the disclosure was insufficient. The bankruptcy court agreed that the disclosure of the connection was purposely vague and reduced the attorney's final fees by one-half of the amount of holdback of interim fees awarded in the case.
		Analysis: The U.S. Trustee quotes the following language from <i>Matco</i> :
		As noted, Rule 2014 "is not intended to condone a game of cat and mouse where the <i>professional</i> seeking appointment provides only enough disclosure to whet the appetite of the UST, the court, and other parties in interest, and the burden shifts to those entities to make inquiry in an effort to expand the disclosure."
		(Objection ¶ 48). Again, the language that the U.S. Trustee decided to quote in the Objection indicates that the obligation to make disclosures only applies to professionals that are seeking to be employed as estate professionals. <i>Matco</i> does not support the U.S. Trustee's position that a professional is obligated to supplement disclosures under Bankruptcy Rule 2014 after the debtor has decided to agree with the U.S. trustee to dismiss its case and the professional is no longer seeking employment (or compensation) in the case.
27	In re Bradley, 495 B.R. 747, 786 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2013).	Overview:
		In <i>Bradley</i> the bankruptcy court imposed on an attorney, his firm, and the attorney's assistant because (a) the attorney allowing his non-lawyer assistant to prepare conversion schedules and statement of financial affairs and file such documents without requiring the debtors to review and sign them and (b) the attorney allowed an unprepared appearance attorney to represent the debtors at section 341 meetings without disclosing the amount paid to such attorney.
		Analysis:
		The U.S. Trustee cites <i>Bradly</i> for the proposition that "[b]y remaining whether in pleadings, at hearings, or by failing to amend the InfoW Lee Declaration, Attorney Lee misrepresented his connections to the Court and violated the ethical duties of candor and diligence" with the parenthetical explanation that an "[a]ttorney's failure to correct misstatements demonstrated a lock of candor and respect to the Court). (Objection ¶ 50).

With such a bold statement one might think that the U.S. Trustee would have equally bold support. But the facts at issue in *Bradley* are just as inapposite as every other authority cited by the U.S. Trustee in the Objection. The conduct that the bankruptcy court found violated ethical duties in *Bradley* were as follows:

[Attorney] breached Guideline D in at least the following respects: (1) he filed the Defective Pleadings without obtaining the Debtors' signatures, [Finding of Fact Nos. 25(a), 32(b), 35(b)]; (2) he allowed his legal assistant (i.e., Gutierrez) to forge the Debtors' original signatures on the Defective Pleadings, [Finding of Fact Nos. 25, 31, 32(b), 34]; (3) he instructed Gutierrez to file the Initial Conversion Schedules, the Initial Conversion SOFA, the Amended Conversion Schedules, and the Amended Conversion SOFA despite knowing that those documents contained inaccuracies or knowing that he had not checked to confirm that the information contained therein was entirely accurate, [Finding of Fact Nos. 32(c), 36]; (4) he failed to inform the Debtors that Carter would represent them at their meetings of creditors, [Finding of Fact No. 38(d)]; (5) he did not prepare Carter for either of the Debtors' meetings of creditors, [Finding of Fact Nos., 38, 53]; (6) he filed, or allowed to be filed, an incorrect Rule 2016 Disclosure, [Finding of Fact No. 37]; and (7) he failed to own up to these transgressions until after the Chapter 7 Trustee brought them to the attention of the Court. Each of these actions alone is cause for concern; taken together, they seriously undermine Aduwa's personal integrity and professional reputation.

In turn, Mr. Lee did not amend his Bankruptcy Rule 2014 disclosures in the three (3) business days after first meeting with FSS because the IW Debtors had decided to agree with the U.S. Trustee to dismiss their cases and were no longer seeking to retain Mr. Lee as an estate professional.